



Ag Digest

Released: Early February 2003

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 02 No. 03

Highlights

Annual Egg Production & Chicken Inventory
 Agricultural Prices
 Cold Storage
 Fruit
 Vegetables
 Sheep & Lambs
 Poultry
 Livestock Slaughter

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY

Annual egg production in Pennsylvania for the year ending November 30, 2002 was 6.52 billion eggs, 2 percent less than the 6.66 billion produced in 2001. There was an average of 23.6 million layers in Pennsylvania laying flocks during the 12-month period, 3 percent less than the 24.4 million the previous year. Average annual production per layer was 276 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2001 average of 273.

All chicken inventory (excluding commercial broilers) as of December 1, 2002 totaled 29.3 million, unchanged from the 29.3 million one year earlier. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in chicken inventory on December 1, 2002. Pennsylvania ranked 3rd in layers on hand December 1. Only Iowa, with 37.7 million, and Ohio, with 31.0 million, were the only states outranking Pennsylvania in layers. Commonwealth flocks included 24.2 million layers 20 weeks old and older, up 2 percent from last year; 5.0 million pullets less than 20 weeks old, down 11 percent; and 92,000 other chickens, up 18 percent from the inventory on December 1, 2001. The average value per bird on hand December 1, 2002 was \$1.80. Total value of all flocks in Pennsylvania on December 1, 2002 was estimated at 52.7 million dollars, up 12 percent from the 46.9 million dollars in 2001.

Nationally, egg production during the year ending November 30, 2002 totaled a record high 86.7 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year. Layer numbers averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from 2001. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2002 was 257 eggs, up slightly from the 2001 average of 256.

2002 VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's vegetable farmers harvested 15,700 acres of sweet corn for fresh market in 2002 with production totaling 628,000 cwt. This is 10 percent less than the 2001 production for fresh market. Average value of fresh market sweet corn was \$31.80 per cwt., \$5.30 per cwt. more than the price received in 2001. Production for processed sweet corn amounted to 6,660 tons, a increase of 36 percent from 2001's production. The average value for processed sweet corn decreased from \$105.00 per ton in 2001 to \$77.30 per ton in 2002. Nationally, 248,800 acres of sweet corn was harvested for fresh market in 2002 and 419,900 acres were harvested for processing. Fresh market production totaled 26.4 million cwt. and was valued at \$20.10 per cwt. Processing production totaled 3.0 million tons in 2002 with an average value of \$68.20 per ton. Forty-six percent of the processing production was utilized for canning and 54 percent was for freezing.

Pennsylvania's 2002 fresh market tomato production was estimated at 701,000 cwt., up 31 percent from 2001. Area harvested was 4,100 acres. The average value was \$23.80 per cwt. United States' production of fresh market tomatoes was 37.3 million cwt. in 2002, a 5 percent increase from 2001. Area harvested was 124,900 acres. Average value of tomatoes for fresh market was \$31.40 per cwt. In Pennsylvania, 7,500 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 2002. Total production was 20,340 tons with an average value of \$215.00 per ton. Strawberry production for fresh market and processing was 73,000 cwt., harvested from 1,300 acres. Average value per cwt. was \$137.00.

At the U.S. level, 210,100 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 2002. Total production increased from 695,190 to 831,260 tons. Canning utilized 575,690 tons of the production. Average value decreased from \$161.00 per ton in 2001 to \$152.00 in 2002. U.S. strawberry production in 2002 was 19.7 million cwt., 19 percent increase from 2001. Acreage harvested was 47,600; the average value per cwt. was \$61.90. Pennsylvania's 2002 fresh market cabbage production was estimated at 342,000 cwt. Area harvested was 1,800 acres. The average value was \$13.30 per cwt. Pennsylvania's cantaloupe production for fresh market was 130,000 cwt. Total acreage harvested was 1,300. The average value per cwt. was \$22.00 in 2002. Pennsylvania's 2002 fresh market and processed pumpkin production was estimated at 1,170,000 cwt. Area harvested was 7,500 acres. The average value was \$14.10 per cwt.

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY, PENNSYLVANIA & US, 2001-2002 ¹

Production & Inventory	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2001	2002	2002/01	2001	2002	2002/01
			Percent			Percent
Egg Production (Million)	6,662	6,520	98	85,745	86,698	101
Average Number of Layers (000)	24,377	23,641	97	335,012	337,202	101
Rate of Lay/Layer	273	276	101	256	257	100
December 1 Inventory:						
Hens & Pullets of Laying Age (000)	23,677	24,180	102	338,628	337,213	100
Pullets 13 Weeks Old & Older Not of Laying Age (000)	3,479	2,362	68	42,807	39,679	93
Pullets Under 13 Weeks of Age (000)	2,094	2,623	125	51,948	53,706	103
Other Chickens (000)	78	92	118	8,126	8,350	103
Total (000)	29,328	29,257	100	441,509	438,948	99

¹ For egg production, marketing year ends November 30.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, JANUARY 2003

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2003 ¹	Jan 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2003 ¹
Dollars							
Corn	Bu.	2.35	2.96	2.94	1.97	2.32	2.27
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.81	3.85	3.47
Oats	Bu.	1.90	2.24	2.16	1.93	2.00	1.90
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.09	3.03	3.00
Hay, Dry All	Ton	124.00	137.00	140.00	91.70	92.60	92.90
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	143.00	154.00	160.00	101.00	100.00	97.60
Dry Other	Ton	109.00	128.00	128.00	72.70	74.70	79.60
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.200	.242	.190	.221	.263	.258
Potatoes	Cwt.	9.65	9.40	9.85	6.90	6.69	6.82
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	39.60	35.70	36.80	38.00	34.60	35.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	65.80	68.60	72.00	71.20	75.10	77.60
Calves	Cwt.	114.00	104.00	106.00	102.00	94.70	95.50
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	35.50	30.50	31.80	38.30	30.70	32.30
Sows	Cwt.	25.90	22.80	21.00	26.40	22.30	21.80
Eggs, ³	Doz.	.470	.600	.500	.450	.519	.529
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	15.00	13.80	-	13.40	11.90	11.90
Manufactured Grade ..	Cwt.	12.60	10.70	-	12.40	10.60	10.50
All	Cwt.	15.00	13.80	13.70	13.40	11.90	11.80
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,650.00	-	1,400.00	1,610.00	-	1,370.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Insufficient data to establish price.

JANUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January is 99, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from a revised December index. Higher prices for broilers, lettuce, cattle, and hogs, more than offset lower prices for wheat, corn, turkeys, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.2 percent) above January 2002. Higher prices for soybeans, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and broccoli.

The Food Commodities Index increased 1 point (1.0 percent) above last month to 98, and is 1 point above January last year.

Food Grains: The January index, at 109, is down 12 percent from the previous month but 22 percent above January 2002. The January all wheat price, at \$3.66 per bushel, is down 40 cents from December but 79 cents above January 2002.

Feed Grains & Hay: The January index is 103, down 2.8 percent from last month but 14 percent above January 2002. The corn price, at \$2.27 per bushel, is down 5 cents from December but 30 cents above January 2002. The all hay price, at \$92.90 per ton, is 30 cents above December and \$1.20 above last January.

Dairy Products: The January index, at 90, is down 1.1 percent from December and 13 percent below January 2002. The January all milk price of \$11.80 per cwt is down 10 cents from December and down \$1.60 from last year. The fluid grade milk price is unchanged from last month but the manufactured grade milk price is down 10 cents from the previous month.

SHEEP INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT

All sheep and lamb inventory in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2003 totaled 83,000, down 3 percent from the previous year. Total inventory included 55,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, unchanged from January 1, 2002. There were 11,000 replacement lambs, 8 percent less than last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 5,000, down 17 percent from a year ago. Market sheep and lambs totaled 12,000 on January 1, 2003, down 8 percent from last year. Of this total, 10,000 were market lambs and 2,000 were market sheep. The 2002 lamb crop of 71,000 head was unchanged from 2001. The 2002 lambing rate was 129 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2002, down from 131 lambs per 100 ewes the previous year. An estimated 2,600 Pennsylvania farms raised sheep during 2002, up 4 percent from the previous year.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.79 million head, were 5 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, totaled 1.67 million head, down 6 percent from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. The 2002 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001. The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent from 2000.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4 percent from 2001. The average price paid for wool sold in 2002 was \$0.53 per pound for a total value of \$21.8 million dollars, up 42 percent from \$15.3 million dollars in 2001.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 31, 2002

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 4,571,000 bushels on December 31, 2002, compared to 6,797,000 bushels on December 31, 2001. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,564,000; Golden Delicious with 911,000; and Rome with 899,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 192,051,000 pounds on December 31, 2002, compared to 285,463,000 pounds on December 31, 2001. Pear stocks in cold storage decreased from previous year's stocks of 1,546,000 pounds to 848,000 pounds on December 31, 2002.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 2002, were greater than year earlier levels for poultry, red meat, and orange juice concentrate. Butter stocks were 16 percent above November 2002 and 182 percent above a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were 2 percent above November 30, 2002, and 7 percent above December 2001. Frozen pork stocks were 1 percent above last month and last year. Stocks of pork bellies were 57 percent above last month but 36 percent below December 2001 stocks.

ANNUAL FRUIT SUMMARY

Pennsylvania's 2002 commercial apple production is estimated at 390 million pounds, down 19 percent from last year's crop. The value of the apple production (based on first utilization) was set at \$40.1 million. The 2002 peach crop totaled 60.0 million pounds, down 20 percent from the 2001 peach crop. The value of utilized peach production was set at \$19.8 million. Pear production in the state totaled 3,800 tons for the year, down 1,700 tons from the previous year. Utilized production of 3,500 tons was valued at \$1.7 million. Sweet cherry production in 2002 was 355 tons, down 39 percent from 2001. Utilized production of 355 tons was valued at \$880,000. The State's tart cherry crop decreased in 2002, from 3.9 to 3.8 million pounds. The utilized production was valued at \$2.1 million. Last year's grape production of 53,200 tons was down 13 percent from 2001 production. Utilized production of 53,200 tons was valued at \$12.7 million. The final 2002 price and value estimates will be published on July 8, 2003.

Nationally, the 2002 utilized apple crop totaled 8.47 billion pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. Washington state -- the leading producer -- reported 5.3 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Utilized U.S. production of other fruit crops and the percentage change from 2001 were: peaches, 2.47 billion pounds, up 6 percent; pears, 911,000 tons, down 6 percent; sweet cherries, 176,165 tons, down 20 percent; tart cherries, 62.2 million pounds, down 80 percent; and grapes, 7.1 million tons, up 9 percent.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, DECEMBER 31, 2002

Variety	December 31, 2001					December 31, 2002				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
<i>(1,000) Bushels</i>										
York	34	2	1,265	639	1,940	9	0	1,027	528	1,564
Stayman	48	17	34	45	144	7	1	43	8	59
Rome	58	69	411	654	1,192	44	61	267	527	899
Red Delicious ...	237	444	225	109	1,015	90	336	37	92	555
Golden Delicious	84	167	780	597	1,628	51	124	232	504	911
Jonathan	3	0	48	0	51	0	0	19	0	19
McIntosh	21	1	4	0	26	2	2	1	0	5
Cortland	4	1	37	0	42	0	0	4	0	4
Other ²	183	104	302	170	759	136	78	220	121	555
Total	672	805	3,106	2,214	6,797	339	602	1,850	1,780	4,571

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 31, 2002

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	Dec 31, 2001	Nov 30, 2002	Dec 31, 2002
PENNSYLVANIA			
(1,000) Lbs.			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	158,721	109,040	91,928
Controlled Atmosphere	126,742	104,484	100,123
Total Apples	285,463	213,524	192,051
PEARS:			
Bartletts	0	0	0
Other Varieties	1,546	1,170	848
Total Pears	1,546	1,170	848
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	759,622	1,027,615	597,986
Controlled Atmosphere	3,595,582	3,952,142	3,718,089
Total Apples	4,355,204	4,979,757	4,316,075
PEARS:			
Bartletts	12,152	25,500	8,291
Other Varieties	309,726	359,021	286,634
Total Pears	321,878	384,521	294,925

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Dec 2001	Nov 2002	Dec 2002	Dec 2001	Nov 2002	Dec 2002
Layers	Thous.	23,820	24,042	24,654	339,105	337,808	337,398
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,317	2,275	2,336	2,188	2,139	2,187
Eggs Produced	Million	552	547	576	7,420	7,226	7,380
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,565	3,544	4,349	31,657	31,078	32,153
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type . .	Thous.	13,549	11,345	12,688	769,731	690,024	753,633
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	24,499	23,987	24,188

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during December totaled 32.2 million, up 2 percent from December 2001. Broiler-type hatch totaled 754 million, down 2 percent from December of the previous year.

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod . .	Mil. Lbs.	110.9	3,859
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	85.8	2,772
	Mil. Lbs. Live	108.7	3,506
Calves	Thous. Hd.	18.1	98
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.9	30
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	258.8	8,658
	Mil. Lbs. Live	64.6	2,317
Sheep & Lambs .	Thous. Hd.	7.2	279
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.8	37

Commercial red meat production in the state during December 2002 totaled 110.9 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 8 percent from December 2001. Cattle slaughter, at 85,800 head, was up 15 percent from last year. Beef production, at 108.7 million pounds live weight, was 14 percent more than December 2001. Average live weight per head was 1,266 pounds, a decrease of 13 pounds from last year. Calf slaughter, at 18,100 head, was up 37 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 5.9 million pounds live weight, was 26 percent more than a year ago. Average live weight per head decreased 28 pounds to 328 pounds. Hog slaughter, at 258,800 head, was up 3 percent from last year. Pork production was 64.6 million pounds live weight, up 1 percent from December 2001. Average live weight decreased 4 pounds per head to 250 pounds. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 7,200 head, was up 38 percent from December of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 775,000 pounds live weight, up 38 percent. The average live weight was unchanged at 107 pounds.

PRST STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA, TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. G-38

**PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405
)))))))))
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300